

In-Fur-Nation

Your Guide to the World of Furry Fandom

Volume 19, Number 1

All The News We Get, We Print!

Winter, 2008



"If I were you... I'd hire myself the services of an armored bear" – Lee Scoresby, cowboy aeronaut, in New Line Cinema's *The Golden Compass*.

It's 2008, and once again it's time to vote – This time, for the Ursia Major Awards for 2007! Read on to find out more, after a brief interruption for...

The News

New Line Cinema's adaptation of Philip Pullman's *The Golden Compass* (the first book in the *His Dark Materials* trilogy) found itself in a very odd position this last winter. The film did very poorly in the United States (poorly for an 'epic' fantasy film), earning only about \$60 million at the box office. But in Europe, the film was a license to print money, taking in more than \$250 million. Around the globe, the film has taken in nearly double its production costs. But still, U.S. critics consider the film a flop, sneering at New Line for the expense of making it and speaking of a "fantasy film burn-out" setting in among movie-goers (which doesn't sit well with the producers of the upcoming

^ Image © 2007, New Line Cinema >

Spiderwick Chronicles film at all). So, what does all this mean to the prospects of a film version of *The Subtle Knife*, the second book in Pullman's trilogy? So far, no one is talking. But we'll keep you posted as soon as we hear anything! Meanwhile, *The Golden Compass* comes to DVD on April 29th.

Meanwhile, the completely unexpected: 20th Century Fox's live-action-and-CGI film *Alvin and the Chipmunks* simply lit up the box office, soaring above \$200 million in almost no time (well, about five weekends, actually). Not very popular with critics, the film nonetheless less caught on with families – after all, many families have parents or even grandparents in them who were kids when the Chipmunks first became popular. This current movie incarnation hits the shelves on DVD March 31st.

It seems that people were very fond of Disney's tradition-teasing film *Enchanted*. Among other things, no less than three songs from the live action/animated film were nominated for Academy Awards in the Best Original Song category. Want to see what the fuss is about, if you didn't before? Then check out *Enchanted* when it comes to DVD on March 18th.

Again shocking no one, ASIFA Hollywood gave the Annie Award for Best Animated Feature for 2007 to Pixar's *Ratatouille*, directed by Brad Bird (who won for Best Feature Director and Best Feature Writing, also). The critically-acclaimed film also won Annies for Storyboarding, Voice Acting, Character Animation, Character Design, Musical Score, Production Design, and even Video Game (for the game tie-in) and Best Short Subject (for *Your Friend the Rat*, which was included on the *Ratatouille* DVD). *Surf's Up* from Sony Pictures won awards for Effects Animation (those waves!) and Production Art, while Best Animated TV Production went to *Creature Comforts America* from Aardman Animations. The Winsor McCay Awards for Career Achievement went to John Canemaker, Glen Keane, and *Ren & Stimpy* creator John Kricfalusi. Animation historian Jerry Beck received the June Foray Award for Special Achievement, while the US Iwerks Award for Technical Achievement went to the creators of Flash animation software.

The next big furry film that most of Hollywood is talking about is the latest Dr. Seuss adaptation, this time in animation: *Horton Hears A Who!*, the latest CGI feature from the folks at Blue Sky, who previously brought us *Ice Age* parts one and two. From those two films, you might notice that these folks have a habit of releasing hits in March! Anyway, the film is directed by Jimmy Hayward (who worked as an animator at Pixar) and Steve Martino (who worked on the "Scratch" short films at Blue Sky). For those who don't know the story (shame on you!), it follows a

lonely elephant named Horton, who discovers that a tiny dust speck sitting on a flower that he's found is in fact the entire universe for a species of tiny little beings known as Whos. Now, can he convince his fellow animals of the whos' existence before both flower and dust speck are destroyed? Watch the film and find out! It certainly boasts a notable list of voice actors, among them Jim Carrey as Horton, Steve Carell (aka Hammy the squirrel) as the Mayor of Whoville, and Carol Burnett as a stuffy kangaroo who nearly brings disaster. The film comes out - where else? - in March.

Donkey Xote is a new CGI feature film from Filmax in Spain, currently looking for American distribution (it's been released in Europe). In this new version of the Cervantes tale, Don Quixote and Sancho Panza are joined by a talking animal trio: A "noble steed" (with a spine of pure water); a kick-butt kung fu rooster; and a donkey who insists that he's a horse. When the ads proclaim "from the producers who saw *Shrek the Third*," you know what you're in for. Take a look at www.youtube.com/watch?v=uYCAskdvf0SY to see the English-language trailer.

And now for something very different... Check out www.blazeofglorythemovie.com to see a preview for *Blaze of Glory*, a new CGI feature film coming this summer from the Xinalji Company and Santoon Productions in China. In ancient Greece, Pelops, an idealistic bronze donkey (voiced by Phyllis Diller!) joins up with the princes Hippodameia to save the queen (voiced by Debbie Reynolds) from the evil influences of a power-mad witch doctor. Their adventures lead to the creation of the first Olympic Games. The film was written by Sarah Kinney and directed by San Wei Chan.

Also possibly coming-soon-to-a-theater-near-you is *Goat Story: Legends of Old Prague*, written and directed by Jan Tománek. Billed as the first CGI feature film produced out of the Czech Republic, the story follows a medieval legend from Eastern Europe. Jenmy, a young man from the country, moves to the big city of Prague to find his fortune, and instead finds himself catching the eye of a street-smart young lady. That doesn't sit very well though with Jenmy's best friend and frequent drinking partner: A female goat. Visit www.goastorymovie.com to find out more, or try www.youtube.com/watch?v=f2_1Q6sZ69o to see the trailer.

Stephen Chow, the writer/actor/director who brought us *Shaolin Soccer* and *Kung Fu Hustle*, took out from his planned *Hustle* sequel to make a new science fiction/comedy film called *C7*. In it, Chow plays a divorced father who struggles to provide for his young son. When he can't afford to get his son a favored toy (the C7 mini-robot), he does the next best thing: He stumbles across a fuzzy, shape-changing alien from outer space, whom he presents to his son as "the coolest toy in the world - the C7!" Curious? Visit www.rottentomatoes.com/m/1190483_c7/ to see the trailer, or just see the movie when it comes out this March.

Word is out the Universal Pictures is making a live-action feature film based on *The Land of the Lost*, to be directed by Brad Silberling (*A Series of Unfortunate Events*). An over-the-top science fiction series from the 1970's (created by Sid and Marty Krofft of *H.R. Pufnstuf* fame), *Land of the Lost* focused on a forest ranger and his two teenage kids who accidentally fall into a strange, miniature pocket universe populated by dinosaurs, lizard-people, and lots

of other strangeness from the world of quantum physics. Does the fact the film stars Will Ferrell mean it's going to be "re-imagined" as a goofy comedy? Guess we'll have to wait until 2009 to find out.

The characters from **Steve Oedekirk's** animated film *Barnyard* have returned in a new CGI TV series titled (appropriately enough) *Back at the Barnyard*, airing Saturday mornings on Nickelodeon. Once again the barn full of cows, chickens, pigs, and other animals party, use computers, make rock 'n' roll, and order pizza, all while hiding from their human "owners" that they can do any of this! The TV series features former KROQ (Los Angeles) DJ Chris Hardwick as the voice of Otis the cow, the ring-leader of the barnyard crew.

Coming from Down Under: Porchlight Entertainment has made **Graeme Base's** world-renowned illustrated book *Animalia* into a new CGI TV series. Tom Ruegger (one of the driving forces behind Warner Brothers' TV animation) adapted the original alphabet-education book into an epic story of two human children who fall into a realm of anthropomorphic animals. Soon befriended by a green gorilla named G Baba and a hyper iguana named Iggy, the children learn that all of Animalia is threatened by instability in the massive source of power and knowledge for the kingdom known as "The Core". Not to mention the fact they've run afoul of a power-mad tiger named Tyrannicus. *Animalia* begins airing on PBS stations this January.

Fans of classic TV animation will probably want to check out the new version of *George of the Jungle*, a joint venture of Bullwinkle Studios (which includes Jay Ward's daughter Tiffany Ward as an executive producer) and Studio B Productions. It's the further adventures of George (Watch out for that - BLAM - tree!), the ape name Ape, and George's elephant Shep - who thinks he's a dog. The show premiered recently on Cartoon Network (Friday nights), and on Teletoon in Canada. Studio B is also producing a new animated TV series called *Kid vs. Kat*, about a young boy who discovers that his sister's cat is trying to take over the world! That premiers this fall.

Ni Hao Kai-Lan is a new animated TV series for young children that teaches them about Chinese language and culture. Kai-Lan is a young girl who learns as she explores her world, following the advice of her grandfather Yeye. Helping her along the way are her animal friends: A koala, a monkey, a tiger, and a pink rhinoceros who travels everywhere by toy balloon. The series is running on Nickelodeon as part of the Nick Jr. program.

Videos and DVDs

Antarctic Press is offering the *Gold Digger Ultimate Collection Two-Disc DVD-ROM, Volume I* (wheee!), featuring all the issues of Fred Perry's popular comic book series going all the way back to the original mini-series. Fred calls it the "GD-ROM".

Disney has released a new 2-DVD Platinum Edition of *101 Dalmatians* - the popular animated film, not the live-action remake starring *Glen Close*. This new edition features not only the movie with digitally-restored color and sound, but also with an available "pop-up information" feature that points out interesting facts about the film while you're

watching it. The second disc features games and educational tidbits for the little pups, a "personality test" find which of the 101 dalmatians would be best suited to you (!), several making-of-features (including interviews with story man Bill Peet, songwriter Mel Leven, composer George Bruns, and art director Ken Anderson), a special look at Cruella DeVille called *Drawn to be Bad*, and of course an original sketch gallery, TV spots (ha ha), and theatrical trailers.

Just in time for the release of *Horton Hears A Who!* in theaters [see above] comes the new release of the original *Horton Hears A Who!* animated TV special from 1970, directed by none other than **Chuck Jones**. This new DVD collection from Warner Home Video also features the Dr. Seuss short films *The Butter Battle, Daisy Head Matzie*, and *Horton Hatches The Egg*. It's available in March. Also in March (and also from Warner) look for *Warner Bros. Classic Shorts: The Academy Award Collection* DVD set. It features 15 Oscar-winning cartoons (and another 26 nominees) from Warner Brothers, MGM, and Fleischer Studios.

Comics

Speaking of Antarctic Press, *Courageous Princess* and *Neoptopia* creator **Rod Espinosa** returns with a new full-color comic book mini-series, *Prince of Heroes*. In this epic science fiction adventure comic, a young boy named Ronen discovers he must journey to the far edge of the universe to meet his father – and fulfill his destiny. Along the way, of course, he visits many strange planets – with many different alien species.

Parody from the past returns... *Adolescent Radioactive Black Belt Hamsters* was one of the first parodies of *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* (itself a parody, of course) to come to light back in the 80's, thanks to creator **Don Chin**. Now Dynamite Entertainment brings hamster hijinks back to comics with the return of *ARBBH* in a brand new full-color series written by **Keith Champagne** and illustrated by **Tom Nguyen**. Issue #1 is also available with a special alternative cover by the artist of *Mice Templar*, **Michael Oeming**.

Four monster buddies – a beast man, a satyr, a fish-man, and a rotting zombie – have hijacked a classic T-bird, and they're rushing across the U.S. from New York to Hollywood in search of fame and fortune. What the heck is it? It's the first issue of *Urban Monsters*, a new full-color comic series coming to you this February from **Will Wilson, Joanne Moore, Tone Rodriguez**, and the folks at Image Comics.

Now try this: "When the demon Lord Babu was unleashed to rain destruction on the Earth, he needed a take a mortal form by possessing the body of a living creature. And what better form than that of an innocent kitten named Ubu? Once united, Ubu and Babu become a terrifying hell-cat devoted to death, destruction and the annihilation of the human race. Ubu's owners know what's going on, and they're having a hard time convincing the rest of the world that their adorable pet is actually a force of pure evil. Well, except for Japan. The Japanese have figured it out, but Japanese school girls and cosplayers love Ubu Babu as a super-cute idol of death." Are you following this? If not (or even if so, perhaps!) you'll have to find the answers in *Ubu Babu*, a new black & white comic book series by **Jamie Smart** (published by Slave Labor Graphics).

Spikey and Einstein is a new black & white comic series by **O'Brien and Lucas**, released by BCP Publishing. "Putting the funny back in 'funny animal'", the ads say. Young Spikey forgets about his science fair project at school, and relies on his clever talking dog to come up with something quickly – with disastrous results!

Big Badz is a new full-color horror comic created by **Rob Moran** (with a script by **Chuck Dixon** and art by **Enrique Villagran, Jason Embury, and Nat Jones**). An animal control officer is forced to join forces with a former-cop-turned-landlord to fight off an invasion of werewolves devastating inner city housing developments. It's coming this March from Platinum Studios Comics.

The creator of the *Cattle Capers* series of novels, **Dawn Kravagna**, now comes to the Internet with *Winkie & Nibbles*, a new on-line comic strip "for anyone who has had a best friend – who drives them crazy!". In this case it's a circus clown named Winkie, who befriends a cantankerous mouse named Nibbles. Visit www.pun-and-oink.com to find out more about this, and more of Dawn's projects.

Books and Trade Paperbacks

One book that animation fans of all stripes should definitely check out is *Dream Worlds: Production Design for Animation* by **Hans Bacher** (released by Focal Press). Mr. Bacher has worked for Disney Studios for nearly two decades as a "go to guy" for early production development, working on such films as *Beauty and the Beast*, *Aladdin*, *Hercules*, *Mulan*, *Lilo & Stitch*, *Brother Bear*, and, most notably, *The Lion King*. In this book Mr. Bacher not only goes into heavy detail about the artist inspiration and development of those films, but also tells stories about films he worked on that were eventually scrapped. Disney films that you will never see, most likely!

It's not a furry book exactly, but... Many furry fans who've wanted to should probably check out the *How To Make Web Comics* from Image. Written by **Brad Guigar, Dave Kellett, Scott Kurtz, and Kris Straub**, the book details how to get your new strip series up on the Internet and in front of the fans. Advice from people who've actually done it!

There are a thousand tales of the sea, but none so tragic as that of *Captain Stoneheart and the Truth Fairy* - a hippo and a magical creature. **Joe Kelly (Ben 10)** and **Chris Bachalo (X-Men)** brings us this "grim tale of broken bones and broken hearts", peopled with characters from the *Elephantmen* series by **Richard Starkings**, here in a completely new setting. This full-color hardcover graphic novel comes from Image comics.

Okay then, check this out: Two local yokels win a pig at a county fair, only to discover that the poor pig has been possessed by Satan! So what do they do? Well on the advice of a crazed monkey preacher known as Reverend Mofo, they hire the services of General Woodchuck and his mouse sidekick, Kernel Cormut, to lead them into Hell itself. Their goal? To kill the Devil and free their pig! What the hell am I talking about? It's *Chumble Spuzz Volume 1: Kill the Devil*, a new black & white graphic novel written and illustrated by **Ethan Nicolle**, and released by Slave Labor Graphics.

Here's another game book for people who like to role-play dragons. [Seems to be a lot of them lately, doesn't there?] *Dragons of Krynn* is a new hardcover book from Margaret Weis Productions that fits into the *Dragonlance* series of novels and games. Featuring write-ups from several well-known authors in the *Dragonlance* series, this book details the history and legends of the ten clans of true dragons, as well as the anthropomorphic draconians.

In case we missed it before: Harper Collins Publishing and Tokyo Pop have combined forces to bring us a new mini-series of digest-sized, black & white graphic novels based on the *Warrior* series of young adult novels by **Erin Hunter**. Graystripe, a warrior cat of the Thunder Clan, is captured and made into a "kitty pet" by a family of affectionate two-leggers. Though they love and pamper him, Graystripe never stops hearing the call of his clan... and his journey to find them brings the adventure of a lifetime.

New from Hyperion Books: *Jellaby*, Volume 1, by **Kean Soo**. A young girl named Portia moves into a new home with her divorced mom. She has trouble adjusting to her new life and her new school... but one day, in the woods behind her house, she discovers a giant purple monster - who happens to be shy and sweet-natured. When they take a liking to each other, Portia determines to help her secret best friend Jellaby find his way home. But where is home? Clues point to the far-off city of Toronto... *Jellaby* is a graphic-novel compilation of a web comic that Kean Soo has been writing and drawing for years. You can view it at www.secretfriendsociety.com.

More little girls having a hard time at a new school... In the *Tomo* series of black & white graphic novels by **Ariel Padilla** (and various writers), young Hana is a shy and nervous girl... who keeps accidentally falling into another dimension. There, a talking raccoon named Tomo informs her that she is in fact destined to become a great ninja warrior who will battle fierce animal-people warriors bent on her destruction. The series of eight is being released by Zondervan (www.zondervan.com).

Tor Books is releasing a graphic novel compilation of **Tim Eldred**'s *Grease Monkey* comic as a full-color trade paperback. When a young human space cadet named Robin Plotnik reports for duty aboard the starship Fist of Duty, he finds himself under the management - and eventually, the tutelage - of a boisterous and fun-loving anthro ape named Mac Gimbensky.

More hot-and-sweaty romance with werewolves (I know, you're SO complaining)... *Dancing with Werewolves* is a new novel by **Carole Nelson Douglas** in the "Delilah Street, Paranormal Investigator" series (published by Juno Books). This is from amazon.com: "It was the revelation of the millennium: Witches, werewolves, vampires and other supernaturals are real. Fast-forward 13 years: TV reporter Delilah Street used to cover the small-town bogeyman beat back in Kansas, but now, in high-octane Las Vegas - which is run by a werewolf mob - she finds herself holding back the gates of Hell itself. But at least she has a hot new guy and one big bad wolfhound to help her out..."

A very unusual book: *Fables from the Mud* is a paperback collection of short stories by **Erik Quisling**, released by Borderlands Press. According to them, it "compiles the triumphant accounts of three modern-day invertebrate

heroes and their tireless quests for self-revelation". An angry clam, a curious ant, and an aged warrior-worm seek to find meaning in their struggle for existence in these profound "children's" fables.

Com.X presents *Path*, a new full-color graphic novel by **Gregory S. Baldwin**. In a strangely desolate landscape, a lone rabbit meets a near-sighted elephant - when the latter falls on predators hunting the former, flattening them. Rabbit and elephant agree to team up as they seek a way out of their inhospitable surroundings.

More werewolves, this time in the Old West. *Strangeways: Murder Moon* is a new black & white graphic novel by **Matthew Maxwell** and **Luis Guaranga** (released by Highway 62 Press). In 1868, a former Union army officer struggles to prove that his best friend is not the strange and deadly wolf-man creature that has been terrorizing a small western town. But why is the local sheriff trying to thwart his efforts?

Pantheon Books returns to the world of *The Rabbi's Cat* by **Joann Sfar** with a new hardcover graphic novel simply titled *The Rabbi's Cat Volume 2*. More adventures with a rabbi in the ancient Middle East, aided in his quest (sometimes begrudgingly) by his clever and quick-witted talking cat.

Combining the idea of a comic book with a children's picture book, illustrator and author **Geoffrey Hayes** presents *Benny and Penny in "Just Pretend"*, a new hardcover "toon book" from Raw Junior. Benny is a young mouse who just wants to play pirate - but how can he when his pesky (and smart) younger sister always wants to tag along? The book takes a warm and humorous look at sibling bonds and tensions.

The *Flight* series of graphic anthologies moves in a new direction with the first volume of *Flight Explorer*, a new collection of illustrated tales edited by **Kazu Kibushi**. From *PrevIEWS*: "The first in a new series, *Flight Explorer* is a full-color graphic novel anthology containing short stories sparked from the minds of some of the most popular creators from the *Flight* anthologies. From Kean Soo's popular *Jellaby* character [see above] to Kazu Kibushi's own *Daisy Cutter*, *Flight Explorer* features characters and worlds that will appeal to young readers."

Love him, hate him, or just never want to work with him again, the fact remains that **Ralph Bakshi** has had a huge impact on American animation for more than four decades. Now you can explore that impact with *Unfiltered: The Complete Ralph Bakshi* by **Jon M. Gibson** and **Chris McDonnell** (in hardcover, published by Universe). From *PrevIEWS*: "Bakshi is responsible for such memorable films and television shows such as: *Fritz the Cat* (the first x-rated animated feature film), *The New Adventures of Mighty Mouse*, *Spider-man*, *Heavy Traffic*, *Cool World*, and *The Lord of the Rings*, which celebrates its thirtieth anniversary in 2008. This is the only book chronicling the career of one of the pioneers of animation. *Unfiltered* highlights Bakshi's early years, as well as each of his groundbreaking films, TV shows, and other projects. *Unfiltered* contains hundreds of pieces of pre-production art, animation cells, and never-before-seen rough sketches, line drawings, and doodles, all culled from Bakshi's personal archives containing more than thirty years of his life's work."

Joining the ranks of feral cat adventure novels, here comes *The Cat Master* by **Bonnie Pemberton** (illustrated by **Lisa Falkenstern** and published by Marshall Cavendish). A juvenile novel (best for ages 9 - 12), it follows the struggles between the hearty outdoor "ferals" and the uppity, pampered "indoors" in Fort Worth, Texas. Buddy is an indoor who was born as a feral - not realizing that he is heir to the Cat Master, the spiritual leadership of cats everywhere. And if his evil brother lett has his way, Buddy won't live long enough to find out....

People

Well now here's something different... The Teddysbears are a nu-wave-ish rock band from Sweden, who've been getting attention for their funky brand of rock'n'roll... and, for the fact they perform, live and in their videos, wearing plastic bear-heads. Really. Check out their video "CobraStyle" at www.youtube.com/watch?v=79Uix6fkMGw to see what we mean.

"I will serve in your campaign until my death - or, until you have a victory!" - Lorick Byrnison, armored bear, in New Line Cinema's *The Golden Compass*.

Furry Stuff has *ConfFurence Stuff!* The original ConfFurence General Store (for ConfFurences 0 - 10) has moved to the new Furry Stuff web portal. Check them out at www.furrystuff.com to find out more - soon, pictures of what's available will be up on-line. Three of the popular ConfFurence T-Shirt designs are still available for a limited time: "Furries in Force" (black or honey-color) by Eric Schwartz from CF7, "Furries in Love" (black and pink on grey) by Rachael Cawley from CF9, and "Sydney's World" (Sydney on a colored globe on green) by Ken Sample from CF10. Plus, a very few of Mitch Beiro's colorful "Furries in Space" T-shirts remain (write for sizes available). They also still offer the *ConfFurence Seven Highlights Video*, as well as the brand new *ConfFurence Eight - Music and Mirth* and *ConfFurence Nine - Furries in Love* highlights videos too! And coming soon, a special combination video from CF5 and CF6! Not to mention many cool prints and extra Souvenir Books from past ConfFurences! To find a complete list, visit the Furry Stuff web site, or send them an SASE at: Furry Stuff, P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92842-1958.

Help us keep up with you! So, we hear you say, how do I keep up my **Subscription** to *In-Fur-Nation*? We're glad you asked! A subscription to *In-Fur-Nation* will bring you even more of what furry fans are looking for around the globe. Find out what to look for, and where to go! It's brought right to your doorstep (or your e-mail in-box) four times a year (winter, spring, summer, and fall), and still for just a whopping \$5.00 for a year's subscription. That's right, for a year. Just send a check made out to "Furry Stuff" (and note it's for *In-Fur-Nation*), or heck, just send a \$5.00 bill in a darkened envelope. (Trust us, it's an old tradition in the 'zine community. It works). To subscribe, to find out more info, or to send us notes for our Furry News, write us at: In-Fur-Nation, P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92842-1958.

A Note to the staff members of our many Furry Conventions: Hey! We wanna help you get the word out! Having a cool-looking web site is a neat thing, but

remember: There are still a significant number of fans out there (furry and otherwise) who don't use the World Wide Web, or who don't use it to its full potential. For them, there's this cool old thing folks on the Internet call *Snail Mail*. That's where we come in! Send us information, and let us help you get the word out to over 1,000 furry fans, artists, dealers, and publishers in the U.S., Canada, Europe, Japan... Look below for our reasonable ad rates, and don't forget... send us text blurbs and you get in for free!

A Request to Our Readers: Hey, got a favorite comic or book store that carries your favorite furry titles, or that you wish would carry more? Give us their address! We'll send them a copy of *In-Fur-Nation* each quarter, and keep them abreast of the kind of comics and media that you would like to see on their shelves! Remember, they can't order it if they don't know it's out there! *An alternate:* Know of any good comic zines or web sites that might be looking to trade issues?

Guess what? In-Fur-Nation is looking for Field Reporters! As an on-going feature, we're going to present profiles of furry creators and furry-oriented companies that are helping to promote products and media of interest to funny animal fans all over. So, like to help out? Know a comic book creator, animator, publisher, or other such person in the field who'd like to discuss what furries mean to them, or to the world? Talk to them, write down what they say... then give us a write-up, about 300-500 words, and we'll include it as a blurb in an upcoming INF, and give you credit for it. [We do maintain the right to edit for clarity and length, mind you.] And hey, we're looking for **furry convention reviews and anecdotes** too! Send hard copies to the Furry Stuff address above, or, you can e-mail your submission to **Rod O'Riley** at mink@firstlight.net.

Advertising in In-Fur-Nation: For those who've been asking, ads in In-Fur-Nation come in these sizes: 1/8-page "business card" size for \$5.00 per issue, and 1/4-page size (4 1/2" tall by 3 1/4" wide) for \$10.00 per issue. Full-page inclusions can also be arranged for \$50.00 an issue. Check should be made out to Furry Stuff. Send camera-ready art and text to P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92642-1958, or send email to mink@firstlight.net.

(Many thanks to all the people who helped provide information for this issue both by mail and via Internet! Invaluable help was also received from the web masters of the various furry conventions out there.)

More Furry Conventions All Around!

Elliot's Spring Gathering

"King Elliot Ingonyama the First" announces the latest of Elliot's Live Events, a series of furry-themed gatherings held in the environs of Orlando, Florida. The next scheduled event is Elliot's Spring Gathering, which will take place May 9th through the 11th, 2008.

Hundreds of furs have been coming to these quarterly events over the past few years. To find out more about where they're taking place, and how to register to attend yourself, visit <https://ele.furryhost.com/>.

CaliFur 4

May 16 – 18, 2008, the future... is steam! CaliFur 2008 celebrates *Steampunk* – looking at the question, what if Victorian technology (and fashions!) had advanced right up into the Space Age? Imagine: Steam powered robots! Wind-up laptops! The internet on telegraphs! Furries flying zeppelins! It's all coming to Irvine – that's about 30 miles south of Los Angeles, for you world travelers! Something steampunk this way comes... to a brand new hotel! Read on...

Our Special Guests for CaliFur 4 include three fantastic artists known as Keovi (J. Kerr), Kitsumi (Mary Lai), and Steamfox (Roy D. Pounds Jr.). Keovi's art has been seen in the *Wild Cats* of the World card deck, while Kitsumi helped to illustrate several of the *Ironclaw* and *Jadeclaw* books. Steamfox is of course an old paw at furry fandom, having put illustrations in numerous comic book anthologies, graphic novels, and convention books – and, more recently, having moved into sculpture as well. (All three of our GOH's can be found at www.furaffinity.net) More Special Guests will be added as we get closer to the con, including the return of some old favorite friends, so make sure to keep your eyes on our web site (www.calfur.com for more details!) Programming plans for CaliFur 4 include the Cabaret Fur le Dance (a Southern California furry tradition!), musical guests, artistic how-to sessions, a Fursuit Parade, lots of dancing – and of course, our special Inventor of the Year contest! All this and much, much more!

This year's special Charity for CaliFur 4 is none other than The Cat House – more properly known as the Exotic Feline Breeding Compound's Feline Conservation Center, near Palmdale, California. Visit www.catthouse-fcc.org to find out more about them!

Membership in CaliFur One is available for **\$40.00** until May 1, 2008, and **\$45.00** thereafter at the door. Advanced memberships – with increasing perks and increasing prestige – are available at Sponsor, Patron, and Benefactor levels for **\$75.00**, **\$140.00**, and **\$1000.00** respectively. Make sure to visit the web site to find out more!

Having blown out the walls at our last location, CaliFur is moving along to the roomier environments at the Hyatt Regency Irvine, still just a stone's throw from the John Wayne Orange County Airport – it's located at 17900 Jamboree Road, Irvine, CA 92614, near the junction of Jamboree Road and the 405 freeway. Rooms at the Hyatt are available for **\$125.00** per night (single or quad), with suites available too (call the hotel for more information). Call 800-233-1234 for reservations (important: The booking code is "G-fene"), or else visit them on line at <http://irvine.hyatt.com/hyatt/hotels/index.jsp> (same booking code). And remember – keep in touch with the latest on CaliFur 4 by visiting our web site at www.calfur.com.

Morphicon 2008

Across the country (almost), also May 16 – 18, 2008, the folks at Morphicon say "Hurray for Furrywood!", celebrating all that's fun and furry at the movies. And of course, on Saturday the 17th. Morphicon is proud to host

this year's award ceremonies for the 2007 Ursula Major Awards – celebrating the best in anthropomorphics!

Morphicon is an anthropomorphics (or "furry") convention located in the central Ohio area. We have programming planned for three full days, including a masquerade, a variety show, a dance, discussion panels, food events, and room for dealers and artists. Morphicon's official charity for 2008 is the Ferret's Unlimited Ferret Shelter in Cleveland, Ohio.

Morphicon 2008's Special Guests include **D.C. Simpson** (creator of *Ozzy and Millie*) and well-known furry artist **Max Blackrabbit** (creator of *Zig Zag*!).

Morphicon will be held May 5 – May 7, 2008, at the Holiday Inn Hotel Columbus-Worthington, 7007 N. High St., Columbus, OH 43085. (Notice that's the same hotel as last year – they just changed the name!) Morphicon has secured a block of double-queen rooms for **\$99.00** per night. To reserve a room, call the Holiday Inn directly at 614-436-0700, or fax them at 614-436-1208. You may also call the central office at 1-888-HOLIDAY. Whichever route you go, you must ask for the Morphicon room rate (room block M80). The room rate is guaranteed only through May 1st. Please plan ahead and reserve your room early!

Full Registration to Morphicon is available for **\$40.00** through their web site and at the door. Sponsor memberships are available for **\$55.00**, and Patron memberships for **\$95.00**, again at the door. Check out the web site at www.morphicon.org for more information about memberships and benefits.

Rocket City Fur Meet 2008 – Deep Six

RCFM 2008, May 23rd – 25th, Huntsville, Alabama. It's gonna be a battle for control of the convention! The old vs. the new, the establishment vs. the iconoclasts, the practical vs. the idealists... who will win? And, perhaps more importantly, whose side will *you* take? Visit www.rcfm.net to find out more of what we're talking about!

The Guests of Honor for this returning fury gather include **Werepuppy** (the illustrator of *Rocketship Rodents* and numerous covers for Marvel Comics), **Lionel** (a well-known fur-suit specialist), and **Eltee Statesky** (creator of the popular "Luskwood" community on Second Life). Plus, a special fourth Guest of Honor – Who could well be *you*? That's right; one attendee will be selected as a special instant-guest-of-honor, right at the start of the con!

All this plus dealers, art instruction, discussion groups, costume presentations, dances, and more! It all takes place at the Radisson Suites Hotel (6000 South Memorial Parkway, Huntsville, AL). Room Rates are **\$79.00** per night for up to six in a room. Attending Memberships are **\$35.00** (by mail until May 15th) – **\$40.00** at the door), with Supporting Memberships and Sponsorships available too. Once again RCFM will be supporting the local animal rescue center, Parenting Children of Different Species, with special charity events. The Meet's web site is at www.rcfm.net, or you can write to them care of: RCFM, P.O. Box 1511, Madison, AL 35758.

Rocky Mountain Fur Con

That same weekend (May 23rd – 25th), on the other side of the continent, Rocky Mountain Fur Con returns to Denver, Colorado. Our theme this year is "The Urban Wilderness". A celebration of the urban jungle that most of us call home. Hip, Trendy, Gritty and Classy all clash in our urban sprawl. Come swap tales or socialize around our barrel fire. Grab your self a Rocky Mountain Fur Con hoody and make your mark on our Graffiti wall! Help make our second year a success! Pre Registration is open, so why wait? This second year will be one you won't soon forget.

We are pleased to announce our Guests of Honor for Rocky Mountain Fur Con 2008: The art collective known as Blotch and the fur-suiter known as Latin Vixen! We are honored to bring these two talented artisans to our event, and look forward to them demonstrating and showing off their talents.

Rocky Mountain Fur Con 2008 will be held at the Hyatt Regency, 650 15th Street, Denver, Colorado, USA 80202. Room rates are \$105.00 per night, single or double occupancy, with higher rates for triple or quad. Call (303) 436-1234 and tell them you are with "Rocky Mountain Fur Con".

Basic attending memberships to Rocky Mountain Fur Con are available for \$40.00 – by mail until April 30th, and online until May 15th. Visit the web site at www.rockymountainfurcon.org for more information, or write to them care of: P.O. Box 111651 Aurora, CO 80042.

Don't Forget - It's time to Vote for the Ursula Major Awards for 2008!

More formally known as the Annual Anthropomorphic Literature and Arts Award, the Ursula Major Award is presented annually for excellence in the furry arts. It is intended as Anthropomorphic (a.k.a. Furry) Fandom's equivalent of the Hugo Award ® (presented by the World Science Fiction Society). mystery fandom's Anthony Award, horror fandom's Bram Stoker Award, and so forth.

Voting has begun – and will officially close on Saturday, April 20, 2008! The nominees are:

Best Anthropomorphic Motion Picture – *The Golden Compass / Ratatouille / Shrek the Third / Surf's Up / T.M.N.T.*

Best Anthropomorphic Dramatic Short Work or Series – *Gridlock (Doctor Who episode), The Natural Order (Cascade Lager commercial), Naturally Juicy (Orangina commercial), Pouring In (JEEP commercial), Shaun the Sheep*

Best Anthropomorphic Novel – *Black Dogs, by Ursula Vernon / Common and Precious, by Tim Susman / Coyote Season, by Michael Bergery / The Hero, by Teiran / Inside the Cage, by Kyell Gold / Life's Dream, by Bernard Dove*

Best Anthropomorphic Short Fiction – "Chrysanthemum and Cabbage", by Gerald Perkins / "Don't Blink", by Kyell Gold / "Love for Family", by Kyell Gold / "A Non-Biodegradable Fox", by Ryan Campbell / "Putting the Universe Back Together", by Chas. P.A. Melville

Best Anthropomorphic Other Literary Work (collections and trade paperbacks) – *All the Newsounds Fit to Print, by Thomas K. Dye / Digger, Volume 3, by Ursula Vernon / A Dozen of Our Own, Volume 2: Shift Happens, by Susan Rankin / Fur-Piled, Volume 2, by Leo Magna / The Prisoner's Release and Other Stories, by Kyell Gold*

Best Anthropomorphic Comic Book – *Captain Carrot and the Final Ark, by Bill Morrison, Scott Shaw!, and Al Gordon / Furry Guardians, by Cyberklaw / Gargoyles, by Greg Weisman, Gordon Purcell, Dustin Evans, and Greg Guler / Genus, by various artists / i.s.o., by Vince Suzukiwa / Usagi Yojimbo, by Stan Sakai*

Best Anthropomorphic Comic Strip – *Bristled, by Stephanie Meibus / Dan and Mab's Furry Adventures, by Amber M. Pankyo / Lackadaisy, by Tracy J. Butler / Newsounds II, by Thomas K. Dye / Ozzy and Millie, by D.C. Simpson*

Best Anthropomorphic Fanzine – *Anthro / Heat / New Fables / Renard's Menagerie / South Fur Lands / Spontoon Island / Tales of the Tai Pan Universe*

Best Anthropomorphic Published Illustration – *Blotch: cover of Fur Affinity United souvenir book / Heather Bruton: wraparound cover of Common and Precious / Heather Bruton: wraparound cover of Life's Dream / Baron Engel: cover of Further Confusion 2007 program book / Sara Palmer: cover of "The Prisoner's Release, and Other Stories" / Georgi Valchev: cover of Furnation Anthology Magazine #8*

Best Anthropomorphic Game – *Ratchet & Clank: Size Matters / Ratchet & Clank Future: Tools of Destruction / Sam & Max, Season Two, Episode 1: Ice Station Santa / Sonic Rush Adventure / Sonic and the Secret Rings*

The award nominees were selected by determining the top five vote-getters in each category of the 2007 Recommended Anthropomorphics List; in the event of ties the number of nominees was simply expanded. Ballots are available from the Ursula Major Awards website (www.ursamajorawards.org); the ballot also contains links to as many of the original works as possible. Votes may be cast either by e-mail or by postal mail. The awards will be presented at Morphicon 2008 (see *Conventions, above*). To find out more about the Ursula Major Award Nominations for 2005, visit the web site, or send an SASE to: Ursula Major Award, c/o ALAA, P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92842-1958, U.S.A.

That's all for this time, my lords and ladies. Our next issue will come bouncing down the path to you in late April of 2008, when the Spring has, again, sprung. So look for us then! Keep up with the World Wide Furry Movement here in the pages of In-Fur-Nation! Yes, That is all! [Rod O'Riley, *your ed-otter*]



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Image c. 2007,
New Line Cinema >

We know you have ears!



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